

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4823

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INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 6436

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: OPTION III: EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS

REFS: A. MBFR VIENNA 564 DTG 241835Z NOV 75;

B. STATE 277369 DTG 222117Z NOV 75

C. LONDON 9054 DTG 131610Z 75 (NOTAL)

D. STATE 248364 DTG 180119Z OCT 75

E. STATE 230342 DTG 262137Z SEP 75

1. US DEL VIENNA, IN REF A, RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT US
ACCEPTANCE IN PARA 7, REF B OF THE FRG LEAD-IN TO PARA 10 OF
THE DRAFT GUIDANCE ("IF AT ANY POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS
AFTER THE POINTS IN PARA 5 ABOVE HAVE BEEN MADE, THE EAST
ASKS FOR LIMITATIONS ON ALLIED NON-US EQUIPMENTS, WHETHER
GROUND, AIR OR NUCLEAR, THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS SHOULD
ANSWER THAT SUCH LIMITATIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST").

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2. ONE OF THE GREATEST CONCERNS OF THE EUROPEAN ALLIES IN OPTION
III IS THAT LIMITATIONS ON US EQUIPMENT NOT LEAD TO
LIMITATIONS ON NON-US ALLIED EQUIPMENT. THE EUROPEAN ALLIES
HAVE RECOGNIZED FROM THE BEGINNING THAT ONCE US EQUIPMENT

WAS INCLUDED IN THE NEGOTIATION, THE OTHER SIDE WOULD PRESS HARD FOR LIMITATIONS ON EUROPEAN EQUIPMENT, AND THE ALLIES HAVE WANTED THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS FIRMLY TO RESIST SUCH EFFORTS. PARA 44 OF THE "US VIEWS" PAPER STATED THAT "WE WOULD TELL THE EAST THAT SUCH MATTERS (LIMITS ON NON-US ARMAMENTS) ARE INAPPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION IN PHASE I." THE UK AND FRG OBJECTED TO THIS LANGUAGE BEFORE DISCUSSION WITH THE OTHER ALLIES HAD COMMENCED. IN PARTICULAR, THIS WAS ONE OF THE UK'S TWO SPECIAL AREAS OF CONCERN ABOUT THE

"US VIEWS" PAPER (PARA 2, REF C). IT WAS IN RESPONSE TO THIS UK AND FRG CONCERN THAT THE US SENTENCE ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE INITIAL US DRAFT GUIDANCE SUBMITTED AT SPC STATED: "IF THE EAST ASKS FOR LIMITS ON ALLIED NUCLEAR ELEMENTS, THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS SHOULD ANSWER, AS APPROPRIATE, THAT LIMITS ON ALLIED NUCLEAR ELEMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST." VIENNA'S SUGGESTION IN PARAS 6 AND 7, REF A, WOULD BE A RETURN TO THE ORIGINAL US POSITION.

3. VIENNA, IN PARA 5, REF A, PROPOSES LANGUAGE FOR THE GUIDANCE SIMPLY STATING: "LIMITATIONS ON NON-US ALLIED EQUIPMENT ARE ALSO NOT PART OF THE WESTERN OFFER." THIS WAS THE KEY POINTS IN THE US PROPOSAL TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE MADE ON OCTOBER 23 (LAST SENTENCE OF TEXT IN PARA 3, REF D). THE ALLIES DID NOT ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL. AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE FRG, BELGIUM, ITALY AND DENMARK SUPPORT THE SENTENCE QUOTED IN PARA 1 ABOVE, AND THE UK GOES EVEN FURTHER, PROPOSING THAT WHENEVER THE OTHER SIDE ASKS ABOUT NON-US ALLIED EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS, THE ALLIES SHOULD GIVE THE NEGATIVE ANSWER. WE KNOW OF NO CHANGE OF ATTITUDE BY FRG OR OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD INDICATE THEIR READINESS NOW TO DROP THE SENTENCE QUOTED IN PARA 1 ABOVE IN FAVOR OF THE SENTENCE NOW SUGGESTED AGAIN BY VIENNA.

4. THE SECOND PART OF THE FIRST SENTENCE IN PARA 10 OF THE GUIDANCE, OF US ORIGIN, IS ESSENTIAL TO BELGIUM AND IMPORTANT TO THE FRG. THIS IS THE CLAUSE WHICH STATES:
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"THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE LIMITATIONS ON NON-US ALLIES WOULD BE THOSE RESULTING IN PRACTICE FROM COLLECTIVE LIMITS ON ALLIED AIR AND GROUND FORCE MANPOWER IN THE AREA."

5. IN ADDITION TO THE POINTS WE HAVE MADE ABOVE, THE APPROACH SUGGESTED BY VIENNA WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE ALLIES TO USE WITH THE EAST BEFORE PHASE II ARGUMENTS IN REF E AGAINST LIMITATIONS ON NON-US ALLIED EQUIPMENT. WE HAVE AT VARIOUS SPC MEETINGS DRAWN FULLY ON THAT MESSAGE.

6. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 4, REF B, WE INFORMED UK AND FRG REPS ON NOVEMBER 24, BEFORE RECEIPT OF VIENNA'S CABLE ON NOVEMBER 25, THAT THE US CAN NOW ACCEPT THE FRG LEAD-IN

TO PARA 10 OF THE GUIDANCE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
US CHANGES IN PARA 5 OF THE GUIDANCE.

7. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, WE BELIEVE VIENNA'S PROPOSAL IN
REF A WOULD RESULT IN A COMPLETE RE-OPENING OF THE QUESTION
OF NON-US EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS AND HENCE WOULD RESULT
IN A SIGNIFICANT DELAY IN COMPLETION OF ALLIED WORK ON
OPTION III.BRUCE

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